

5 **Amendments in the Claims:** (struck-through parts deleted and underlined parts added)

1. (currently amended) An umbrella holding system for removably holding an umbrella in an upright position to a person, said system including:

an umbrella including a pole having a bottom end and a top end, a canopy being attached to the top end of the pole; and

10 a handle being attached to the bottom end of the pole and extending downwardly away therefrom, said handle having a bottom side, a top side and a peripheral side wall extending between said top and bottom sides, said handle being substantially solid, a securing member for releasably attaching said handle to a belt being positioned on said handle

15 a strap being elongated and having a first end and a second end, a tubular member being attached to said strap and being positioned generally between said first and second ends, said pole extending through said tubular member such that said tubular member may be selectively positioned along a length of said pole, wherein said strap may be selectively positioned around and secured to a chest of the person, a coupler being attached to said first end of said strap for selectively securing said first end of said strap to said second end of said strap.

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2. (original) Then umbrella holding system of claim 1, wherein said securing member is formed by a slit transversely extending through said bottom side such that said slit extends through peripheral side wall and a first portion and a second portion of said bottom side is defined, wherein a belt positioned around the person may be extended into said slit.

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3. (original) Then umbrella holding system of claim 2, wherein said slit extends at least one inch upwardly from said bottom side.

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4. (original) Then umbrella holding system of claim 3, wherein said first portion has a smaller surface area than said second portion, said bottom side having a generally circular shape.

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5. (original) Then umbrella holding system of claim 2, wherein said first portion has a smaller surface area than said second portion, said bottom side having a generally circular shape.

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Claims 6-9 (cancelled)

10. (original) Then umbrella holding system of claim 1, wherein said securing member comprises an L-shaped hook having a first end attached to said peripheral side wall such that said hook extends downwardly away from said pole.

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Claims 11-12 (cancelled)

13. (original) An umbrella holding system for removably holding an umbrella in an upright position to a person, said system including:

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an umbrella including a pole having a bottom end and a top end, a canopy being attached to the top end of the pole;

a handle being attached to the bottom end of the pole and extending downwardly away therefrom, said handle having a bottom side, a top side and a

peripheral side wall extending between said top and bottom sides, said

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handle being substantially solid, a securing member for releasably attaching said handle to a belt being positioned on said handle, said

securing member being formed by a slit transversely extending through said bottom side such that said slit extends through peripheral side wall

and a first portion and a second portion of said bottom side is defined, said

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slit extending at least one inch upwardly from said bottom side, said first

portion having a smaller surface area than said second portion, said bottom

side having a generally circular shape, wherein a belt positioned around

the person may be extended into said slit; and

a strap being elongated and having a first end and a second end, a tubular member

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being attached to said strap and being positioned generally between said

5 first and second ends, said pole extending through said tubular member
such that said tubular member may be selectively positioned along a
length of said pole, a coupler being attached to said first end of said strap
for selectively securing said first end of said strap to said second end of
said strap, wherein said strap may be selectively positioned around and
10 secured to a chest of the person.